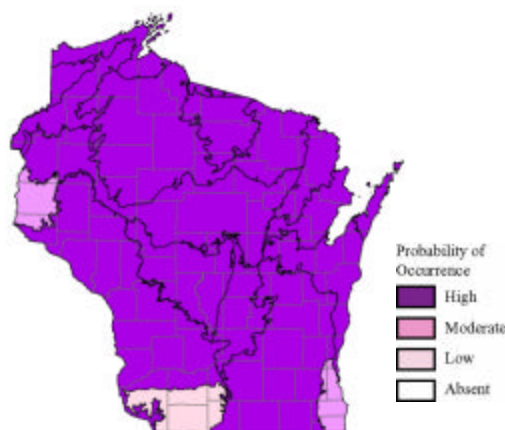


American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	2
State threats:	3
State population trend:	4
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	3
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.4
Area of importance:	5

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Shrub-carr
Central Sand Hills	Alder thicket
Central Sand Hills	Calcareous fen
Central Sand Hills	Shrub-carr
Central Sand Plains	Alder thicket
Central Sand Plains	Shrub-carr
Forest Transition	Alder thicket
Forest Transition	Northern mesic forest
Forest Transition	Shrub-carr
North Central Forest	Alder thicket
North Central Forest	Hardwood swamp
North Central Forest	Northern mesic forest
North Central Forest	Shrub-carr
Northeast Sands	Alder thicket
Northern Highland	Alder thicket
Northern Highland	Shrub-carr
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Northern mesic forest
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Shrub-carr
Northwest Lowlands	Alder thicket
Northwest Sands	Alder thicket
Southeast Glacial Plains	Bog relict
Southeast Glacial Plains	Calcareous fen
Southeast Glacial Plains	Hardwood swamp
Southeast Glacial Plains	Shrub-carr
Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern tamarack swamp (rich)
Superior Coastal Plain	Alder thicket
Superior Coastal Plain	Shrub-carr
Western Coulee and Ridges	Alder thicket
Western Coulee and Ridges	Shrub-carr

Threats and Issues

- A decrease in the extent of young forest habitats and the isolation of these habitats may be limiting woodcock recruitment (Dessecker and McAuley 2001). Young forest habitats have decreased in Wisconsin from a peak in extent that occurred when early successional forest species recolonized lands left open after the Cutover and associated fires (Gregg 1984 and Roth 2001). Acreages appear to have stabilized in recent inventory periods.
- A ground-nesting species often preferring forest edges, woodcock are susceptible to high nest mortality due to meso-predators in areas experiencing forest fragmentation, human development, and agriculture.
- Riparian area guidelines that preclude the removal of substantial overstory vegetation can limit the development of early successional habitat (Dessecker and McAuley 2001).
- Winter mortality in the southern U.S. due to hunting and avian predators is likely a significant source of adult mortality outside of Wisconsin (Pace 2000, Krementz and Berdeen 1997, Krementz *et al.* 1994).
- Elevated lead levels have been documented on breeding grounds in Wisconsin (Strom *et al.* 2004) and Canada (Scheuhammer *et al.* 1999).

Priority Conservation Actions

- Specific woodcock management techniques, including clear cutting, burning, mowing, and herbicide applications, where appropriate, can be used to create singing grounds and roosting areas and rejuvenate feeding grounds (Gregg 1984).
- Timber harvest that removes substantial overstory trees along riparian areas may be warranted in some areas. Water quality concerns can be addressed by applying voluntary Forestry Best Management Practices for water quality.
- Reduce human development in forested landscapes and near riparian areas, especially where alder is present.
- Educate the public on the importance of maintaining young forest habitats in some areas for woodcock and other wildlife species.
- Research the impacts that meso-predators may have on populations.
- Monitor lead levels in woodcock and identify source of lead.